



RAYS OF HOPE



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A FEW WORDS FROM KIRAN'S SUPPORTERS

During this crisis situation, the KIRAN team remained in touch with friends and supporters through regular exchange of communication. This was really helpful in strengthening the bond between partners, donors and supporters. We express our gratitude that a lot of friends are willing to know more about what is happening in KIRAN. Many of them came forward to support the families in need during this difficult time.

Thank you very much to you all!

CSI Luxembourg

CSI Luxembourg is a State-recognized NGO, which has been supporting disadvantaged and marginalized people since 1989 by launching tangible projects which aim at helping them out of poverty and which offer them better future prospects.

We are very proud to have Kiran Society as one of our partners!

We began the partnership with Kiran Society in 2015. Before this, Kiran Village was supported by "Amis de l'Inde". The current project finishes at the end of this year but we are already working closely with Kiran on the planning of the next project. We can already say that it looks promising but the final decision depends on our Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Our work with Kiran has revolved around infrastructure works, but also teacher training and knowledge sharing with parents. As regards the infrastructure, CSI has financed a new roof for the boys' boarding school in 2018, the construction of a boarding school for girls in 2019 and the roofing of a special education unit this year.

Every time we have been able to visit Kiran Village, we have realized and confirmed how important Kiran's work is and how well it is being executed. We have noticed that the work done in Kiran Village is practice-oriented and offers plenty of individual support. CSI is also happy to see that the parents are included in Kiran's work and in the learning process of the kids. We are pleased to see that the collaboration with the kids' parents is real and effective.

We would like to thank Kiran Society for all their hard work and commitment. We look forward to seeing more!



Sophia Vander Kooy

Recently graduated from Hope College in Michigan, USA, I had an internship at KIRAN Society during my semester abroad with SIT: India Sustainable Development and Social Change. This experience drastically changed the way I see the world and what I hope to do within it. I have always been passionate about creating inclusive environments for people everywhere but it wasn't until I became a part of KIRAN that I realized how vital it is for communities to uplift children. By empowering passionate teachers, coordinating with local village members, and giving every staff member opportunities to grow, KIRAN truly creates inclusivity behind every door of their campus. By mirroring what they preach to their students, everyone is empowered. Thanks to my time working at KIRAN Society, I hope to dedicate my life to creating systems that include, educate, and empower children everywhere. Their sustainable model changes lives and creates a lasting impact on everyone that finds their way to them.

COVID-19 RELIEF INITIATIVES



As the lockdown has affected the jobs of thousands of labourers in the unorganized sector, they are finding it difficult to arrange for a square meal everyday. People from all sections of society are coming forward to donate ration and food to the people in need. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an advisory to collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious organizations to provide food and shelter for the migrant workers, who have lost their jobs and are stranded in distant places. Along with District Administration authorities (Varanasi), in an ongoing effort, KIRAN supported 30 families of migrant daily wages workers or marginalized families of the villages who are in need of support to survive in this pandemic situation. These beneficiaries were provided nutritional and hygiene support kits while observing the precautionary measures.

Supporting families in the remote area of Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh, India

The last two months adversely affected the general population especially the lives of marginalized families in rural and remote areas despite having some relaxation in lockdown situations. Many of the families are mainly involved as a labourer in the agriculture and informal sector. Most of them have lost their job and are reinforced to return to their respective villages and have no resources enough in this tight situation. Their lives became miserable and facing difficulties to arrange daily needs commodities.

To contribute a bit in improving the situation, the KIRAN team supported 114 families of Mirzapur districts in which 87 were families of children with disabilities and 27 were marginalized families. Out of 114 families, 34 families benefited from dry ration and hygienic kit and 80 families received direct funds transfer in their account (1000 INR per family).



114 Families



34
Nutritional & hygiene



80
Bank Transfer

75

Female



39

Male



87

Children/Persons with disabilities



27

Marginalized Children/Persons

Medicine support to children with disabilities

KIRAN's team continuously helps the children with disabilities who are living in remote areas of Mirzapur (Sikhar and Manjhwa blocks) and Varanasi (Kashi Vidaypeeth block) districts.

This pandemic situation substantially challenges the lives of children with disabilities especially those who are in need of special attention and/or on regular medication but couldn't avail it due to poor supply chain of medicines and unavailability of rehabilitation facilities locally.

The children affected with epilepsy, severe spasticity and behavior issues are advised to take medicines regularly as well as to maintain their functional and intellectual existing abilities. KIRAN team identified 32 children with disabilities in these three blocks to provide medicines for two months (May and June 2020) in collaboration with local medical and administrative authorities free of cost at their door steps.



32

Children on ongoing medical therapy



Received free medicines from KIRAN for 2 month (May and June)

8

Female



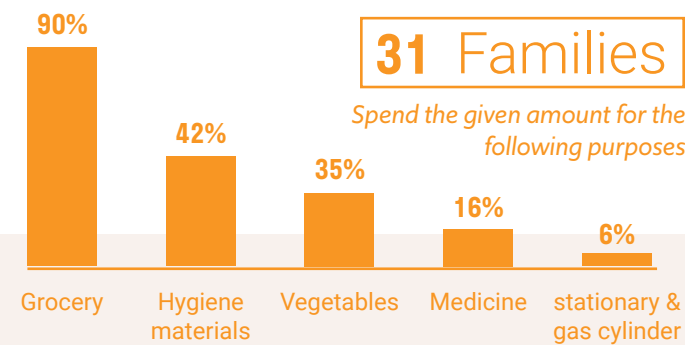
24

Male



Kiran students supported through bank transfer

Out of 31 students, 27 students were from Varanasi and 4 students were supported from neighbourhood areas – Chandouli, Deoria, Mirzapur and Mau district.



13

Female



18

Male



26

Children/Persons with disabilities



5

Marginalized Children/Persons

EDUCATION

Developing Information Education and Communication (IEC) material

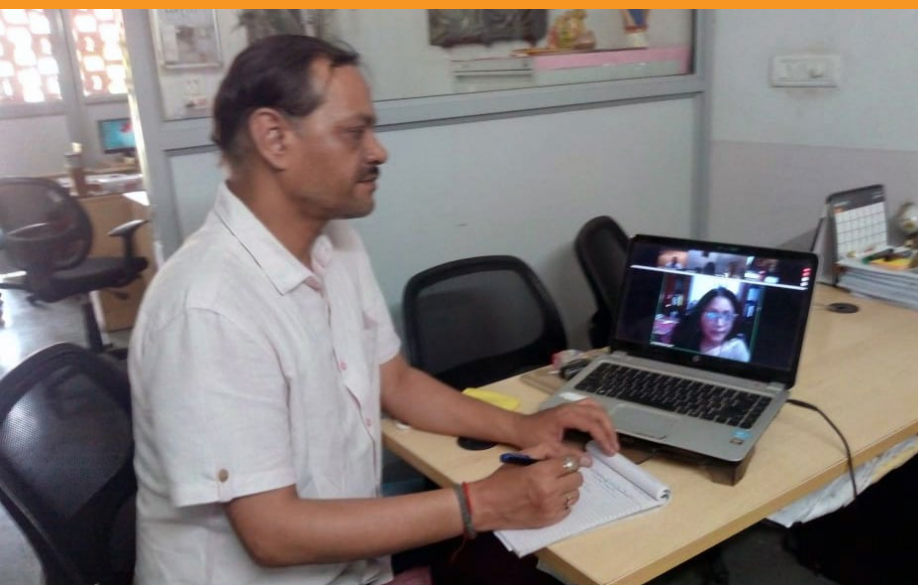
As COVID-19 continues to spread, the future has never felt so unpredictable. These are challenging times for us all. KIRAN is doing everything possible to sustain daily operations and provide services to the community. While there's a lot of uncertainty, we know that we need to adapt fast to our changing reality.

KIRAN team is working on the development of IEC material regarding the Right to Education, Right to Information, Inclusive education. This kind of IEC material will help in raising awareness among community members and guiding them on how to exercise their rights.



Continuation of online classes for the teachers' trainee

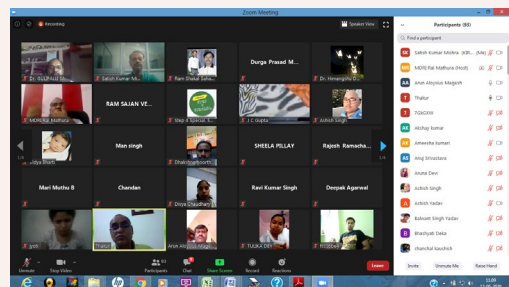
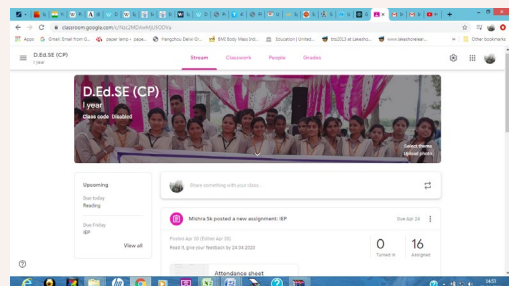
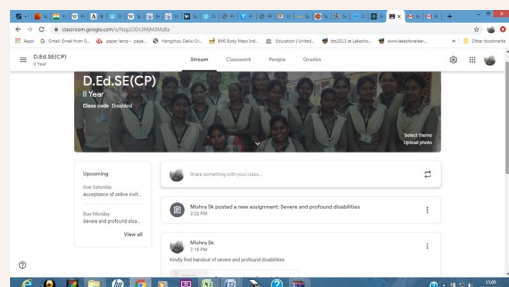
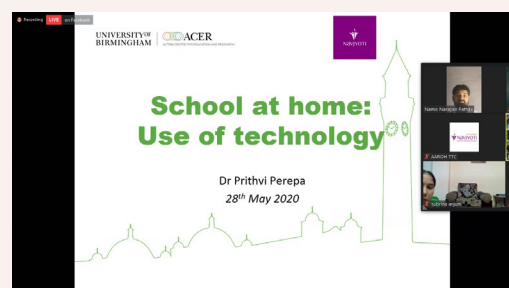
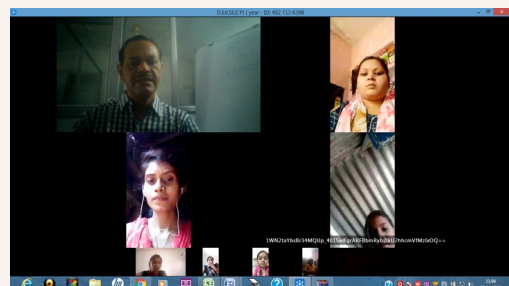
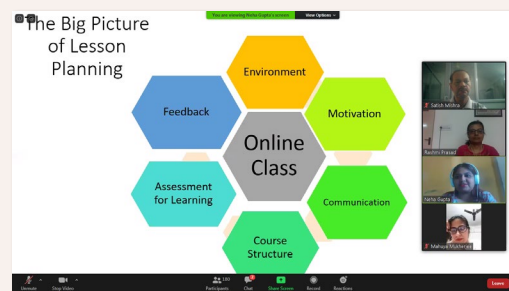
The online classes for the teachers' trainee were continued in the month of May 2020. Now the trainee teachers are acquainted with technology and curriculum transactions became easy now. The experience of online classes in the month of April 2020 has brought us new ideas to make online classes more interactive and participatory. The team also uses other platforms to share powerpoint presentations, handouts and other resource materials related to their syllabus.

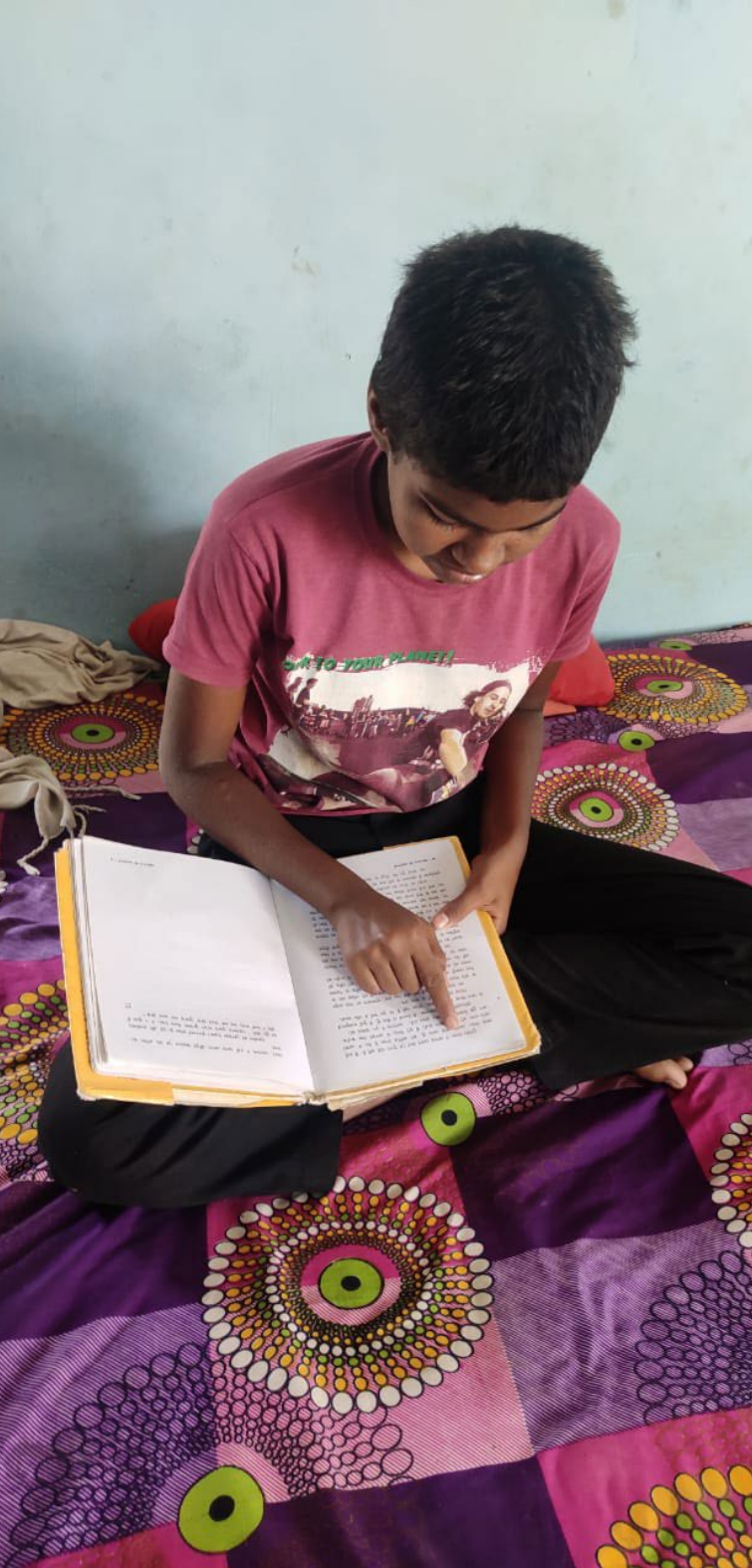


Time for professional upgradation

This period of restricted movement was utilized to be part of some online professional development opportunities. The teaching faculty joined various online discussions, meetings and webinars on various critical/ current issues like School at Home: Use of Technology, Implication of COVID – 19 on Mental Health, Post Lockdown Scenario of Higher Education and Lesson Planning for Online Classes. These possibilities have brought different professionals from all over the world on a platform where exchange of knowledge, thoughts, opportunities and practices were shared globally.

On the hand, for students who passed out from KIRAN's have been qualified (counselling and document verification) for the vacancies announced by the Uttar Pradesh Government for the position of Assistant Primary Teachers. The KIRAN team is continuously supporting them with any required documents and simultaneously motivating them during their individual counselling through multimedia.

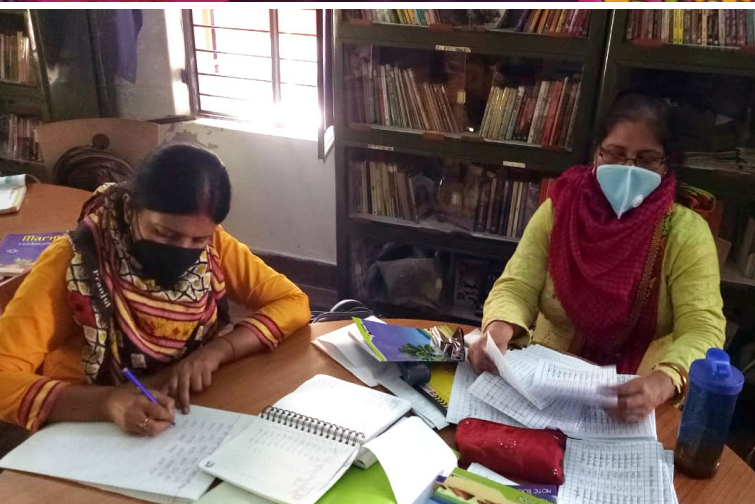




Supporting children with new strategies of learning

Kiran School's new session (2020-2021) started in May 2020 month. The school teachers introduced themselves to children who entered in new classes and started preparing their lessons and teaching material with video and photo-audio methods. Though difficult initially, it was very interesting for the children to learn through video or photo-audio methods. The teachers assigned the homework and checked their work through the digital copies. The school team is also available for sorting out the queries of children and parents related to the subject matter throughout the day. Some teachers from primary and upper primary school expressed that almost every day they received many messages and calls. .

During these new ways of learning, one of main issues was that few children could not come in contact because of no recharge facility in their phone and unrepaired phones. The teachers and students were facing problems in communication due to these reasons. Later, a group of teachers sorted out this issue by drafting the teaching-learning homework and handing it over to the parents so that a maximum number of children could be involved in the teaching-learning process. A total of 11 school teachers and 7 special educators are involved in teaching with children.







HEALTHCARE

Team planning to restart the services

The rehabilitation services in KIRAN suspended all the institutional and community based rehabilitation services since the nationwide lockdown was announced and extended till the 31st of May.

The team of professionals providing rehabilitation services anticipating to restart the institutional based services from 1st July 2020. As part of this preparation, a planning exercise has been conducted in order to prevent and control infection of COVID-19, followed by a training programme organized by the Medical Director.



Connecting from home

Many rehabilitation professionals have been working from home using the telephonic/internet based services as means of communication. The team is in constant touch with parents of the children with disabilities and encourages them to follow the routine exercises and other activities at home.

Depending on the needs, they are also suggesting the adaptations and changes in activities to continue the rehabilitation plan. The team is also encouraging the parents to follow the guideline issued by government agencies in relation of COVID-19. The frequency and duration of calls depend on the need of parents and children..





Yes, lockdown... but Not knockdown!

Such a long time without going to classes, meeting friends outside our home, what a boring situation! But some of the youngsters expressed their wish to take good use of this special time and to study English. They now meet every day with Sangeeta to get guidance with a downloaded program.

This daily gathering gave the idea to meet also for doing yoga with social distancing in the early mornings with a few friends. The planning was to combine these yoga-exercises with some reflection and sharing on the present situation and on our hopes for the "after-corona-time". Our simple green lawn just beside the river Ganges, along with some gentle music, lent itself wonderfully for this!

It resulted in a lovely bunch of clear thoughts:

- Let's keep up the care for pollution free nature
- Let's live more in the present
- Let's remember to cherish relationships

Yes, it was a time of "lockdown", but we want to listen to life's call and not be knocked down! May the spirit of universal energy guide and strengthen us!



From mask making to food preservation

In the month of May, in the given lockdown situation, a few of the team members were busy mask making and efforts related to food preservation:



Mask making for staff members

The Art and Design section started making masks for Kiran staff members. These masks were quite useful for the staff members during the routine purposes as well as utilized by staff members during the distribution of relief items.



Food preservation

During this month of summer, which is also famous for the production of mangoes, the KIRAN premises generated around 380 kgs of mangoes to be used for pickle and jam making purposes.





Seán Hannon, volunteer with student

AN EXPERIENCE WITH KIRAN

Seán Hannon,
volunteer from Ireland (January-April 2020)

I joined Kiran Society on the 5th January 2020. Within the first few weeks of my stay and involvement with Kiran Society my first impression of the place was how relaxed an atmosphere there was at Kiran and how friendly and welcoming everybody was there. It was not long before I was invited to people's houses for cups of tea.

It was my first time in India and one my first times being in a foreign country without any family or home friends with me, so in the beginning, I found the experience quite daunting. However, this feeling soon vanished as I started to get used to the environment of Kiran and Varanasi.

My main role in Kiran Society during my stay was in the boys' and the two girls' hostels. Here, I would help the children at their return from school and the hostel's caretakers. This involved keeping the children occupied with games and helping with the evening snacks. I would also assist those with learning difficulties with their homework and studies. I found this aspect of my role to be especially rewarding.

One thing that I had to get used to, especially while working in Kiran and especially in the hostels were the customs of Indian culture. For example, the interaction and social dynamics between children and adults, or young adults with older adults is quite different to that in Ireland. However, in the cases where I may have crossed cultural boundaries, everybody was very understanding and patient, and kind enough to explain the issue.

The Kiran staff were very generous and helpful, and they went out of their way to ensure that the other volunteers and myself felt comfortable and included within the Kiran community and I feel I have made many friends there. I am very thankful to all of Kiran for having me, and volunteering with and living at Kiran Society for three and a half months was a fantastic and unforgettable experience and my experience has made me eager to return some day.

Pappu Yadav, former student

Mr. Pappu Yadav is a 21 years old and energetic young boy, who was affected by Polio in his childhood. His parents are uneducated and belong to a poor family from the village Koirajpur, of Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh. There are five members including him, who are in his family and only father is earning a member of the family. His father has some piece of land for agricultural purposes and only source of income for the family.

He came to KIRAN with his family for treatment but considering his family's economic situation, he was provided accommodation and all other needed facilities like the hostel, food, transport, and educational expenditure. He was supported with appropriate appliances for his proper mobility.



Pappu Yadav

Pappu is a hardworking and laborious student, he always holds the higher rank in the class with excellent marks. He got admission in KIRAN school (National Institute of Open Schooling) in class 6th during the academic session 2008-09. After successful completion of Junior High school, he went outside and completed his Intermediate from Central Hindu Boys School, Varanasi. Even belonging from a very poor economic background, he always attempts for his better future and earns his pocket money by giving tuition.

Presently, he is doing Bachelor in Arts from DAV collage, Varanasi. He is very much keen to get a job and help his family soon. His parents are very hopeful with their son's achievements and always thanks to the KIRAN for timely support.

HELLO RAVI!

KIRAN Society has been working for people with different abilities since 1990. In such a situation, KIRAN Society is providing a lot of attention and care for Ravi, a young man who is an orphan adult of 27 years. Ravi is suffering from multiple disabilities and always has to depend on one person for the sake of his daily routine work. Due to this disability, his immunity power is very weak; hence his health deteriorates due to slight change of weather. To keep him healthy, regular attention of doctor's consultation and physio therapies services have been included in addition to cleaning, eating, and physical exercise as necessary.

Given his limited abilities, Ravi have other ways to express himself, for example he shares his likes and dislikes by laying on the ground, holding on to a person or things,... which gives him happiness.

Ravi lives in Karuna Bhawan, a hostel of KIRAN Society and is happy to share his happiness with everyone. A Special Educator who lives in this institution helps him in his daily activities; such as brushing (dental cleaning), toileting, bathing, changing of clothes etc. every morning and evening. Keeping in mind his physical exercise, during the afternoon Ravi is involved in playing games so that his physical condition and muscles will remain healthy and soft. As per plan, the hostel caretakers, Ravi is getting breakfast, lunch and dinner. He moves around happily in KIRAN premises on a wheelchair along with his many friends including Madeena.



DONATE

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*Daring to rise
Braving the odds
Reaching for the stars...
Dreams are forever*

Kalpana Chawla